

**From:** Jim McDonald  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/15/02 12:49pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Penalty Suggestion

Here's what I'd like:

1. Force Microsoft to adopt a file format for all Office applications and PUBLISH their spec. Note that I am not asking for the publication of the source code of Office, simply the description of the file formats used. This way, people can use other Office suites (PerfectOffice, SmartSuite, StarOffice) without wondering if the files created will load properly in Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc... Just this would open up some competition in the Office Suite market.
2. Force Microsoft to publish every single API in Windows. Again, I am not asking for the publication of the windows source code, but simply to the Application Programming Interface. This would have two benefits: It would make sure that every service, every facility is clearly exposed for use while at the same time, removing the cloud of suspicion that Microsoft has some secret APIs that make their applications work better than others.
3. Muzzle the Microsoft FUD division. This is by far the most irritating aspect of Microsoft as a business entity. They generate FUD and make believe that other competing products are not good while it's far from the case. Feel free to select your example, there are tons of them out there.
4. Forbid them to use the words "innovate" and "innovation" unless they can specifically show that they are the first-movers for the particular product they are advertising. Again, there are tons of examples out there where Microsoft has been only an "adapter" as opposed to an "innovator".
5. Offer a striped-down version of Windows. Just the bare bones and a text-based browser (like Lynx) for initial download of the browser of choice. Nothing else built-in, nothing else cobbled together. A base install should not be more than 20 Megabytes and should scream on Pentium-class machines.
6. Word the requirements that hefty fines will be leveraged for non-compliance.

Hopefully, this way, we'll have more competition and a better computing environment. As well, if Microsoft is still dominant after this, it'll be because they have earned it the good old-fashioned way and we'll have little if anything to complain about.

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